REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 5-20, 31, 33, 34, 36-39 and 41-45 will be pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 3-7 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the present Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 3. Amended Claim 3 recites a recording medium comprising, in part, a lubricating layer comprising fluorinated carbon and a thermally stabilizing dopant comprising N. Dependent Claim 3, which recited that the thermally stabilizing dopant comprises N, has been canceled.

Independent Claim 31 has been amended to recite a lubricated article comprising a substrate and a lubricant disposed on the substrate, wherein the lubricant comprises fluorinated carbon and a dopant comprising N. Dependent Claim 32 has been canceled.

Independent Claim 34 has been amended to recite a method of magnetic recording comprising, in part, moving a magnetic recording medium in relation to a magnetic recording head, wherein the magnetic recording medium comprises a lubricating layer including fluorinated carbon and a thermally stabilizing dopant comprising N. Dependent Claim 40, which recited that the thermally stabilizing dopant comprises N, has been canceled.

Basis for the language recited in amended Claims 1, 31 and 34 is provided in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 1 and 2, as well as original dependent Claim 3. No issue of new matter is presented.

Newly added dependent Claims 43, 44 and 45, which depend from Claims 1, 31 and 34, respectively, recite that the lubricating layer has a thickness of at least 10 nm. Basis for the language recited in these claims is provided in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 14-16. No issue of new matter is presented.

Claims 31-33 and 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Bray et al. '642. Bray et al. '642 discloses fluorine-doped diamond-like coatings

containing carbon, silicon, oxygen, hydrogen and fluorine which may be deposited on various substrates.

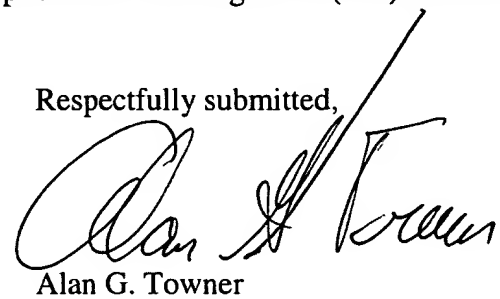
Claims 1, 2, 8-20, 31-34, 36-39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Schmidt et al. '409. Schmidt et al. '409 discloses hydrogenated carbon compositions including optional elemental additions selected from fluorine, silicon, boron, oxygen, argon and helium (see column 1, lines 30-45). Schmidt et al. '409 teaches that the disclosed compositions may be employed as coatings for magnetic recording media.

The JP 2001195723A document cited but not applied in the Office Action was published July 19, 2001, after the July 10, 2000 priority date of the present application.

The Bray et al. '642 and Schmidt et al. '409 references applied in the Office Action do not teach or suggest the invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 31 and 34. The references do not disclose lubricating layers comprising fluorinated carbon and a thermally stabilizing dopant comprising N as recited in the present claims. In view of the Examiner's indication that the recitation of a thermally stabilizing dopant comprising N represents patentable subject matter, it is submitted that independent Claims 1, 31 and 34, and the claims that depend therefrom, are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (412) 263-4340 to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan G. Towner
Registration No. 32,949
Pietragallo, Bosick & Gordon
One Oxford Centre, 38th Floor
301 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Attorney for Applicants

(412) 263-4340